Dear Dick, Gallen

1/3/90

It was a very pleasant surprise hearing from you and I do look forward to your coming, with David, who has grown up since I last saw him, and then only briefly.

I have a rudimentary file, mostly clippings, on the Malcom X assassination.

I also have a friend who, I think years ago had an interest in the Malcom X assassination. He is a reporter on WINS, your all-news station. If David would like to see if he has and would let David have any information, his air name is John Russell and he may well have that name legally now. Use my name, and say I suggested the call.

My friend Walter ~~Glanze~~ Glanze, 280 Riverside Dr., 7h, is someone you may have met in connection with the autobiography. He controls Malcom's literary properties and is the agent for the widow, Bett Shabazz. If David calls, again he should say that I suggested it. Walter was an editor for years, partly at Bantam, and in recent years on a number of well-known dictionaries.

In getting to understand the FBI, and there is nothing more Byzantine in this country, if David has not read it I urge him to read Sanford Ungar's The FBI. Great work!

It happens that I'd just made this copy of one of my many and voluminous appeals in FOIA litigation, administrative appeals, for a professor friend. Some of it may not be entirely comprehensible to David but I think he'll get some understanding of the actualities so little known and virtually never reported.

If he'd like he can make a copy. I'd appreciate its return when you are here so I can mail it to the professor friend for whom I made it.

Mike Perlin is a New York City lawyer who has done some fine work with and under the Freedom of Information Act. I once gave him an affidavit that helped in a successful lawsuit he filed in Washington. He started the Fund for ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Information and Accountability and it turned out an excellent FOIA handbook. You ~~xxxx~~ did not know whether New York has such a law. He of the fund should be able to tell you. City and state, because it was a local crime.

Because of the Privacy Act and the privacy exemptions of FOIA David will want to be prepared with privacy waivers, especially from Betty Shabazz. None is required for records relating to the dead. To get records relating to others involved in the crime or said to have been and to avoid withholdings from records relating to those who provided information privacy waivers may be required of them ~~xix~~ also. Otherwise entire records may be withheld and ~~xxxx~~ NYMPD certainly will be.

Probably the FBI had informers covering Malcolm. Expect it to invoke "national security" to withhold such records.

I told you I believed that Malcolm and King were moving toward each other. There may well be controversy about this among blacks but that Malcom was not killed until he had begun to undergo changes that I believe would have widen his base of support is something David may want to have in mind. It was true of King, who was an uppity nigger to so many who hated him for years yet did not kill him until he opted for more than marching and protesting. Malcolm had been a sexist, which my ~~xx~~ friend Flo Kennedy (who might be able to be helpful) disputed vigorously, for one example.

You met Les Payne, now an assistant managing editor of Newsday when he was its national correspondent. He picked me up at your apartment or took me there about 15 years ago. He once headed the association of black journalists. In time he might be able to be of some help if he can find the time.

At some point David will have to decide whether to accept what the FBI choses to let him have or to sue. If he sues that can be time-consuming but it can also be productive. As you'll see if about 40 file cabinets of records will impress you. If he goes to court, filing up there may be better. We can discuss this. Best to you all, and looking forward,

Harold